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Notes on People

Anthony Blunt, Ex-Spy for Soviet, Quits Academy Post

Anthony Blunt, the art historian who last year admitted that he was a spy for the Soviet Union during World War II, resigned from the British Academy yesterday, saying he wished to put an end to continued controversy over his membership.

The academy, regarded as one of the world's top scholarly societies, caused a furor when it rejected demands for the ouster of Mr. Blunt, who was Sir Anthony until Buckingham Palace stripped him of his knighthood last November.

After the academy refused at its annual meeting last month to expel Mr. Blunt, several members resigned in protest. Those favoring his staying on as a member contended that his espionage activities had no bearing on his qualifications for membership. Mr. Blunt was curator of Queen Elizabeth II's art collections.

A statement by Mr. Blunt said last night that his resignation "seemed the only way by which I could lessen the dissension which my continued membership has hitherto caused."